

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
North Coast Region  
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**FACT SHEET**

**RENEWAL OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
(NPDES Permit No. CA0023060)**

**FOR**

**CITY OF WILLITS  
MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY**

**Mendocino County**

The City of Willits has applied for renewal of Waste Discharge Requirements to discharge treated municipal wastewater under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) from the Willits Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). The Regional Water Board will consider adoption of new Waste Discharge Requirements at its June 28, 2001 Regional Water Board meeting at the Santa Rosa Hearing Room, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Santa Rosa, California.

Treatment provided to the wastewater prior to discharge into Broaddus Creek at a point within the NE ¼, Section 18, T18N, R13W, MDB&M consists of extended aeration, settling, disinfection and dechlorination. The discharge point is below the confluence of Broaddus Creek with Baechtel Creek, which are tributaries of the Eel River. All are waters of the United States. Design flows are 1.3 million gallons per day (mgd) average dry weather and 3.0 mgd peak wet weather. During the period of May 15 to September 30, treated and disinfected effluent is used for pasture irrigation on 45 acres of pasture owned by the City of Willits and 200 acres of privately owned pasture. Secondary-treated effluent is discharged into Broaddus Creek during the period from October 1 to May 14 in conformance with 100-to-1 dilution requirements.

Sludge is dried using a polymer-aided auger press system. The dried sludge is mixed with wood chips prior to disposal. Sludge drying beds are utilized as an alternative system when the auger press system requires repair. The dried sludge is spread, disked, and seeded onto the 18 acres of City-owned pastureland. This land also is used for summer effluent irrigation. The WWTF has adequate solids handling capacity.

The draft permit recognizes the City's need to prepare and implement a long-term plan to accommodate growth and prevent adverse impacts from over-irrigation or excessive discharge.

Effluent limitations for conventional pollutants are based on secondary effluent standards pursuant to the 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 133.102. The total suspended solids limit for discharges from SN 002 is authorized by 40 CFR 133.103(c) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) determination for waste stabilization ponds at 43 CFR 53161. Additional effluent limitations, receiving water limitations, and discharge prohibitions are based upon water quality objectives and receiving water limitations contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan).

Effluent limitations, toxic, and pretreatment standards are established pursuant to Sections 208(b), 301, 302, 303(d), 304, 306, 307, and 403 of the federal Clean Water Act and amendments thereto. The State Water Resources Control Board adopted the *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California* (also known as the State Implementation Plan or SIP). This policy establishes implementation provisions for priority pollutants promulgated by the U.S. EPA through the National Toxics Rule (NTR) and through the California Toxics Rule (CTR). Insufficient background and effluent data exist to determine whether any of the priority pollutants are or may be discharged at a level that will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any State water quality standard. In accordance with the SIP, the discharger is required to obtain the data. After the data is gathered, the reasonable potential analysis (RPA) will be performed and the permit reopened to include additional numerical limitations, if necessary.

The NPDES permit contains a Monitoring and Reporting program to determine:

1. Compliance with Effluent Limitations, Receiving Water Limitations, and Discharge Prohibitions;
2. What priority pollutants, if any, may require water quality-based effluent limitations; and
3. Whether or not the discharge is toxic to aquatic organisms in the receiving waters.

Copies of the draft permit may be obtained by contacting the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, at the address above.

For any additional information or questions in this matter, please contact:

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